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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from the Ohrdruf Area.

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DATE PREPARED 31 October 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 4 October 1951, a camp of 10 low wooden barracks buildings was observed in the Ohrdruf (N 51/J 15) training area about 1,500 meters west of Woelfis. The road to the camp was blocked by a barrier and guarded by sentries who wore red-bordered black epauletts. Three canvas-covered armored personnel carriers were seen in the camp area.

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2. Four trucks left Woelfis northward for the wooded area about 500 meters north of Woelfis. Each truck mounted a 20-mm AA machine gun. After arriving in the wooded area, the troops on the trucks started firing at a sleeve target towed by an airplane at an altitude of about 600 meters. Four tanks seen about 1 km farther to the north fired eastward as they moved along. Trucks passed through Woelfis toward the east.

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3. Trucks were parked at the gate of the former ammunition depot on 5 October. The depot area was guarded by patrols. About 20 trucks and 3 armored reconnaissance cars were seen on the edge of the woods east of the Ohrdruf-Crawinkel road. Four rocket launchers, covered with tarpaulins, were west of the road. A Soviet sentry was seen on the tower about 500 meters south-southeast of the Felsenkeller in Ohrdruf on 6 October. Tents and motor vehicles about 1.5 km northeast of the tower.

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4. Russian women wearing civilian clothes, including some women clad in rags, arrived in late September, allegedly to replace German civilian employees. The women were issued new uniforms at the Nichols Garden inn on the southern edge of Ohrdruf. A German barber employed in Camp Ohrdruf said that he expected to be replaced by a Russian barber. \*

\* Comment. Units at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds are: the 20th Gds Recz Div, the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, the 220th Hvy Tank SF Regt of the Eight Gds Army, the 13d (Gds) Gun Arty Brig of the Eighth Gds Army, and

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the 38th AT Arty Brig of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps. Elements of these units were identified in Ohrdruf throughout the summer of 1951. In addition to the vehicles of the aforementioned units, three vehicles of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from the Kindel troop training grounds were observed at the ammunition depot and in the town of Ohrdruf.

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